ancing are constantly reviewed and necessary action taken.

PRIVATISATION OF TELCOM. DEPTT.

1494. SHRI S. VIDULTHALAI VIRUMBI : WiU the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any pioposal under Government's consideration to encourage thp privatisation programme in the Telecom. Department; and

(b) if so, the details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION? fSHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

POST OFFICES IN GRAM PANCHAYATS IN GUJARAT

2495. SHRI AHMED MOHAMED-BHAl PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of Gram Panchayats in the State of Gujarat art without facility of Post Office;

(b) if so, whether Central Government have decided to set up a post office in every Gram Panchayat dutmg 1993-94; and

(c) if so, by when, and the steps taken to achieve the target fixed, if any, in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) There are 5183 Gram Ptochayata without post offices in Gujarat.

5183 Gram Panchayat is without Post post Office during 1993-94 in Giam Panchayats of Gujarat. Priority is being given to those Gram Panchayats where poet office facility is not available. Post offices are progressively opened taking into consideration the various prescribed norms as well as availability of resources, land allocation of target by the Planning Commission.

NEW TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM FOR TRANSMISSION OF DATA

2496. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be plyeased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to install a high speed paclcet switch, VAST (Very Small Aperture Terminal), telecommunications system for the transmission of data via the KU bank transponder through INTELSAT leased from Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this reaard;

(c) what are the names of places where VAST is likely to be started; and

(d) by when these are likely to be strrt-ed and at what cost ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) te (di The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

POSTAL DIVISION IN EACH REVENUE DISTRICT IN ORISSA

2497. SHRI SANTOSH *KVUAK* SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Postal Divisions in Orissa, the area covered [serviced by them and when they were formed

(b) the details of action taken or pro posed to *be* taken to set up Posal Divi sions in each Revenue District of Orissa in the near future and how the newly created revenue districts are being ser-